

PAHAYAGAN NG PARTIDO KOMUNISTA NG PILIPINAS  
PINAPATNUBAYAN NG  
MARXISMO-LENINISMO-MAOISMO

# ANG Bayan

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## Editorial

# Workers, lead the struggle to thoroughly isolate the Macapagal-Arroyo regime!

In the face of the worsening social crisis and suffering of the people due to the Macapagal-Arroyo regime's unparalleled puppetry and militarism, the broad masses of the people are crying ever louder for the ouster of the ruling reactionary regime. This is its just deserts for trampling on national sovereignty, its all-out auction of the national patrimony, its denial of the just demands of workers, peasants and other oppressed sectors and the imposition of severe repression especially in the countryside.

Due to their intense oppression and suffering, the people are gathering a powerful storm of protest against the puppet, corrupt and suppressive Macapagal-Arroyo regime. It is a tempest that comprises the broad democratic and patriotic forces. It draws in more and more forces and individuals, resulting in the isolation of the ruling regime in stages.

To resist and thoroughly isolate the Macapagal-Arroyo regime and frustrate its ambition to prolong itself in power, the broadest unity of the Filipino people must be built. It is the duty of the working class to lead in this endeavor.

Like the broad and militant stand taken by the Filipino worker masses against US colonialism in the first part of the 1900s, Filipino workers must now take action in their numbers to thwart US plans to launch a bigger war in the Philippines. It is necessary to assiduously monitor, assail, oppose and put a stop to every interventionist move by US imperialism in connivance with the puppet regime, and tirelessly resist its plans to broaden armed aggression in the country.

The working class must lead in exposing and resisting the conspiracy between Bush and Macapagal-Arroyo to make the revolutionary movement



and the struggling people targets of joint operations of American troops and the AFP. Nonetheless, the Filipino proletariat must take the lead in launching a war of national liberation to eject American occupation troops.

It is necessary for workers to exert all efforts to resist the Macapagal-Arroyo regime because of its oppression of the worker masses. The regime is undisputedly the workers' main class enemy as well as the enemy of the Filipino people. Its all-out advocacy of imperialist "globalization" is the leading cause of widespread unemployment, slave wages, inhuman working conditions, the wretched living conditions of workers and their families and the systematic attacks on the rights and benefits that the labor movement had fought for, for decades.

To advance the welfare of the worker masses, there should be no letup in advancing the just struggle for a P125 wage increase and against excessive hikes in the prices of oil, electricity and water.

New laws and policies that further attack the right to job security and buttress labor-only contracting and similar exploitative and oppressive moves must also be thoroughly resisted. The workers must expose the intensifying repression and suppression of their rights and must consolidate their ranks in resistance.

The severe corruption that permeates the civil and military bureaucracy and the merciless suppression of the people's just resistance must be exposed and opposed. The working class must manifest its anger at rampant bureaucratic corruption and the wallowing in luxury

and privilege perpetrated by the regime in the face of the people's unprecedented poverty.

The working class must also continue to take the lead in waging collective action to roundly condemn the broad and intense suppression campaigns in the countryside and cities that victimize the peasant masses and target even forces of the open and progressive movement.

The ranks of the workers' movement comprise the biggest part of the mass movement against the Macapagal-Arroyo regime. The pouring out of throngs of people into the streets thus serves as a very important factor in decisively isolating the ruling regime. The workers must expertly use strikes and other forms of militant action to advance their interests and those of the entire people. AB

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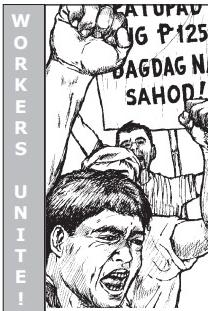
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# 1902-30: The Philippine labor movement's distinguished history of class and anti-imperialist struggle

The workers' movement in the Philippines has a distinguished history of militant class and anti-imperialist struggle. It persevered in struggle in the face of the intense repression and deception perpetrated by foreign and local reactionaries. It was able to wage massive and powerful economic and political strikes and other mass mobilizations for the welfare of workers and for national liberation. It played a central role in the struggle against US colonialism. As early as the beginning of the 1900s, it was the proletarian class in the Philippines that took the lead in calling for and launching broad mass struggles to end US colonial rule in the country.

Under the leadership of Katipuneros Isidoro de los Reyes and Herminigildo Cruz, the first workers' congress in the Philippines was held on February 2, 1902, during which the country's first labor federation, Union Obrera Democratica (UOD), was founded. Its establishment was guided by the Marxist slogan of the First Workers' International: "The liberation of workers is the task of workers themselves."

The Union de Litografos y Impresores de Filipinas (UIL) which was established on December 30, 1901, became the UOD's base union. Many of the UIL's members who were then working in printing presses played important roles in the propaganda movement and other actions against Spanish colonialism.

UOD immediately and daringly undertook massive organizing work and launched workers' and anticolonial struggles. It immediately and rapidly grew and was able to wage a series of big and powerful uprisings.

On August 2, 1902, it launched the first of a series of early general strikes in the Philippines. Most of the strikes were waged against US companies that suddenly appeared as the US imposed colonialism in the country. The workers' marches and rallies in front of Malacañang on May 1, 1903 were attended by more than 100,000, who bannered the calls: "Overthrow US imperialism!" and "Attain complete and immediate independence!"

Suffused with the spirit of struggling for their class and for national liberation and

influenced by Marxism, the workers persevered in the face of brutal attacks and deceptive maneuvers by the US colonial regime and the surrender of some of their leaders.

On May 1-4, 1913, representatives of 36 unions with 40,000 members from Manila and nearby provinces gathered at the Sine Oriental in Azcarraga, Manila. They founded the Congreso Obrero de Filipinas (COF). The COF enthusiastically advanced the Philippines' struggle for independence.

On March 31, 1918, the UIF was reorganized, with Crisanto Evangelista elected as its president. The union movement was then inspired by the victory of the October Revolution in Russia.

Under Evangelista's leadership, collective bargaining with the capitalists was conducted for the very first time. The UIF's members were able to gain several benefits including a 100-500% wage increase in 1918. The UIF served to inspire other unions to wage struggles. Evangelista's prestige soared. Not long after, he was elected secretary general of the COF.

By 1927, the COF had more than 80,000 members. The reactionaries assiduously moved to destroy the growing unity of the working class, derail its partiality for the socialist movement, and seat yellow and conservative union leaders within the COF leadership. The COF became divided between adherents of the line of "harmonious relations" or collusion with the capitalists and the line of class struggle.

With such schemes going on without letup and with the severity of the split, the COF was rendered inutile. Evangelista and his followers bolted the COF and established a new, more solid, militant and progressive labor movement center, the Katipunan ng mga Anakpawis sa Pilipinas (KAP).



The KAP openly declared that its objective was to resist the exploitation of the toiling masses and banner the Filipino people's resistance to American colonialism. It expressed its all-out advocacy for "all revolutionary and class movements of the masses of workers, both national and international, especially struggles towards the salvation of the oppressed and suffering masses from slavery, as well as for the liberation of countries from capitalism and imperialism". Twenty-two unions and workers' associations established the KAP on May 12, 1929.

In the process of relating with organizations and proletarian movements from other countries, including progressives and those led by communist parties, and with the workers' movement in the Philippines affiliating with international organizations and the international workers' movement, Filipino worker leaders experienced a significant development in their thinking and politics and raised the level of their Marxist-Leninist consciousness.

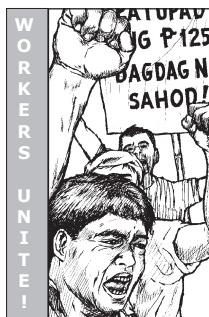
In the continuing effort to build a solid instrument for the struggle of the working class, the KAP approved a

resolution to form a new workers' party that will organize and directly lead the people's political, economic and cultural struggle.

On August 26, 1930, the anniversary of the First Cry of Pugad Lawin, 60 worker and peasant leaders representing their militant organizations gathered at the Templo del Trabajo in Manila to establish the new party, reflecting a new and higher level of consciousness, organization and politics of the working class in the Philippines. They called it Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas (PKP). They decided to formally launch the PKP in public on November 7, 1930 as a tribute to the Socialist Revolution in Russia.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of November, some 5,000 people gathered at the Plaza Moriones in Tondo—the heart of the working class district in Manila—to proclaim the PKP.

This part of the distinguished history of the labor movement in the Philippines served as the foundation of genuine, militant and anti-imperialist unionism. The Communist Party of the Philippines, which was reestablished on December 26, 1968, also traces its roots to such a history. AB



## DOLE Order 18-02:

# Advocating contractualization

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) issued Department Order (DO) 18-02 on February 18, amending DO 10-97 that covered the issue of labor contractualization.

DO 10-97 has been used since 1997 to propagate and intensify the system of contractualization and attacks on the right of Filipino workers to job security. Due to widespread condemnation by the masses of workers, the Macapagal-Arroyo regime suspended the order in April 2001 and replaced it with DO 18-02. The latter, however, bears no essential difference from the order it replaced.

DOLE secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas lies when she says that DO 18-02 will attend to the interests

of contractual workers. It merely reinforces the system of contractualization that has caused widespread ruination among workers since the 1990s. DOLE and the Macapagal-Arroyo regime turn a deaf ear to the cries of workers calling for an end to contractualization.

The order has not rectified the outrightly anti-worker provisions of DO 10-97 especially the grant of extensive rights to capitalists to fire workers on "just and authorized grounds". In fact, this provision of DO

10-97 and other provisions that trample on workers' right to job security have been advanced in past Supreme Court decisions (*See related article on p. 6*).

Like DO 10-97, DO 18-02 also supposedly declares that labor-only contracting and other forms of abuse against workers by contractors or subcontractors are illegal. DO 18-02 lined up two oversimplified marks of labor-only contracting: 1) lack of capitalization on the part of contractors; and 2) lack of control by contractors on the actual labor process. It also listed down the kinds of abuses of contractual workers that were prohibited.

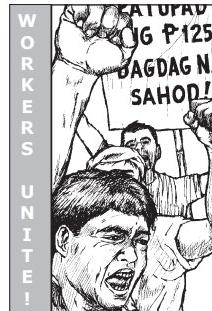
But this is all negated because DO 18-02 merely pays lip service to, and is inutile in countering labor-only contracting and similar abuses. DO 18-02 does not provide penalties for, and is thus useless, in the face of



the many abuses against contractual workers. Its claims that contractual workers enjoy rights to safe and sound working conditions, labor standards, social welfare, organizing and job security are all a deception.

Whatever DOLE says, contractuals can never enjoy such "rights" as long as they remain contractual. Of what use are DOLE's assertions of the rights of contractuals, when it has not put an end to contractualization itself and instead advocates it as legal and justified? Of what use is a law that supposedly advances the rights of contractual workers, when it fails to fulfill the basic demand for job security?

It is thus fitting for workers and the people to condemn this new law that legitimizes, and serves as a mere coverup for, various forms of labor-only contracting and the rampant and severe abuses of the system of contractualization perpetrated against workers. AB



## Workers' oppression under contractualization

CONTRACTUALIZATION is one of the leading systems used by capitalists to further exploit and oppress workers. Contractuals directly employed by capitalists or through contractors are ordinarily given three- to five-month contracts.

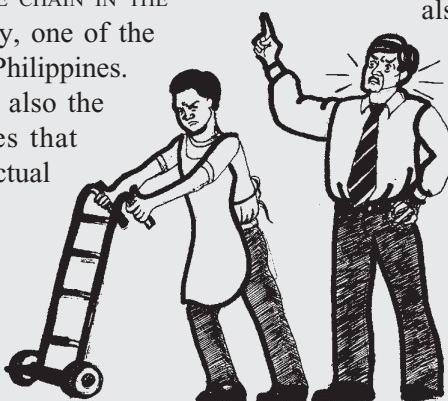
In hiring contractuals, capitalists are able to circumvent labor laws and standards that grant benefits ordinarily enjoyed by regular workers. Among them are job security, the right to a minimum wage, 13<sup>th</sup> month pay and others. The system of contractualization is also used to suppress the rights of workers to form unions and to strike. Contractualization worsens the oppression of workers through the following practices:

1. Firing regulars and replacing them with contractuals, or firing regulars and rehiring them as mere contractuals.
2. Hiring contractuals on condition that they do not join unions. Another widespread practice is the use of "contractors" owned by dummies of capitalists or contractors or agencies tightly controlled by, or in cahoots with, capitalists who hire contractuals. Thus, the workers remain under the capitalists' absolute control even as the capitalists exercise the most minimum level of responsibility towards the workers.
3. Maintaining workers as contractuals despite years of working with the company. In spite of many years of service with a company, many contractual workers do not enjoy job security and are merely given new contracts every three to five months.
4. Requiring workers to sign undated or postdated letters of resignation that may be used by capitalists to fire them or serve as a constant threat that they could be fired whenever the capitalist decides on it.
5. Requiring workers to sign blank or doctored payrolls to make it appear that they receive wages higher than what they actually get. Workers are also required to sign agreements ceding all their rights to the capitalist. AB

## Contractualization at SM

SM IS THE BIGGEST DEPARTMENT STORE CHAIN IN THE Philippines. It is owned by Henry Sy, one of the biggest comprador bourgeoisie in the Philippines. It has 14 branches nationwide. It is also the biggest company in the Philippines that employs the most number of contractual workers.

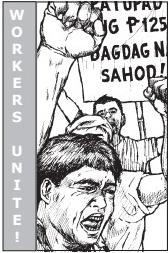
- Up to 90% of SM's 20,000 workers are contractual. In SM's six Metro Manila branches, only 1,447 workers are regular.



• Every month, SM hires up to 10,000 new workers who will work for three to five months as contractuals.

SM earned P2.7 billion in 1998. On the other hand, salesladies who have worked at SM for 10 to 20 years earn a mere P250 per day.

• SM is considered a garrison because it bans workers from joining union activities and prohibits the establishment of unions in its new branches. AB



# Anti-worker decisions of the Supreme Court

**R**ecent Supreme Court decisions on labor cases have been outrightly anti-worker. They prop up the legal basis for suppressing the labor movement.

In these decisions, capitalists have been granted greater liberty to fire workers, bust unions and deny appropriate benefits. In the name of "non-interference", the court insisted that the state had no say on what were considered as purely business decisions taken by capitalists, whatever effect this would have on the rights and welfare of workers.

## LEGALIZING THE SUSPENSION OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

According to the Supreme Court, there are occasions when unions' right to collective bargaining may be suspended. This declaration dismantles the right of unions to periodically negotiate for, or review, collective bargaining agreements (CBA).

On January 23, the Supreme Court decided in favor of the capitalist in the case of Philippine Airlines. The union had petitioned that the 10-year moratorium on CBAs be declared illegal. In the decision written by former labor secretary and now Justice Leonardo Quisumbing, the court declared that the moratorium on CBAs at the Philippine Airlines (PAL) was legal because it was supposedly stipulated in an exclusive agreement between the company and the Philippine Airlines Employees Union (PALEA).

Thus, for 10 years, PAL workers would not have the right to renegotiate their CBA or change their union (because it was PALEA that bargained with the company). The Supreme Court used PAL's "financial problems" as a basis for approving the morato-

rium. On the other hand, it refused to recognize that PAL owner Lucio Tan coerced and bribed some PALEA leaders to agree to the CBA.

## ARBITRARY DISMISSAL OF WORKERS APPROVED

In two successive decisions made last year, the Supreme Court advocated and approved the practice of monopoly corporations of arbitrarily dismissing workers.

In the case of Dole Philippines, the Supreme Court reversed a previous decision by the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC). The NLRC had ordered the reinstatement of 3,000 workers, ruling that their dismissal due to "cost cutting" was illegal. According to the Supreme Court decision, Dole's dismissal of its workers was justified because the company had the right to undertake cost-cutting measures even if it was not in the red—that is, they could do so whenever they felt like it or even without notice. It was sufficient for the company to say that it was cutting down on costs.

In the case of San Miguel Corporation, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the capitalists' right to fire regular employees due to the use of new machinery. It turns a blind eye to the reality that positions occupied by regular employees are constantly being declared redundant just so they could be filled by contractuels. Worse, the court has ruled that the company may declare a position redundant to dismiss "undesirable" workers or "worst performers". It was an advocacy of the rampant practice of pinning such brands on militant and combative union leaders and

members that capitalists would like to fire.

## BOYCOTT OF OVERTIME, WORK SLOWDOWNS AND WORK STOP-PAGES ILLEGALIZED

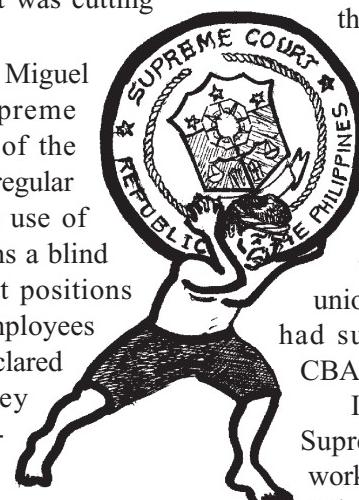
Even the rights of workers to protest and wage collective action to advance their welfare have been attacked by the Supreme Court. The court considers as illegal strikes, means of collective action such as boycotts of overtime, work slowdowns and work stoppages. The court demands strike notices and strike votes even if such actions fall short of an actual strike. The court calls them "strikes in installment" and considers them direct acts of sabotage.

On December 19, 2001, the Supreme Court gave its blessings to the forced overtime imposed by Interphil Laboratories on its workers. It declared the workers' boycott of scheduled overtime work as illegal. The Supreme Court rationalized its ruling on a provision in the CBA between the union and the company

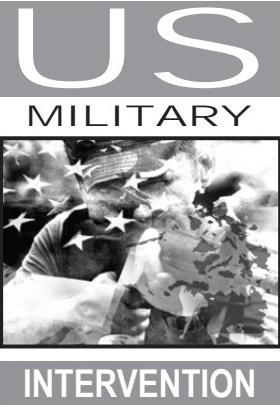
that grants the company the right to schedule work hours, with the company having the sole right to amend them.

At the same time, the Supreme Court permitted the dismissal of the union's leaders because they had supposedly violated the CBA.

In an earlier case, the Supreme Court declared a work slowdown waged by San Miguel Corp. (SMC) workers as illegal because this was directly prohibited in the CBA. According to the court, even in the absence of any provision in the CBA



"Supreme Court", continued on page 7



## Balikatan 02-2 starts

Balikatan 02-2 commenced on April 22, with 2,665 American troops joining it. This is the biggest Balikatan compared to those previously conducted. Also participating in the training are 2,900 Filipino soldiers. The training that will last till May 6, is currently being held

at the Clark Air Base in Pampanga, Crow Valley Gunnery Range in Tarlac, Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija and the Marine Jungle Base in Ternate, Cavite.

In this regard, Aeta communities have expressed concern about detachments being set up by the AFP in their areas and the definite rise in human rights violations that would result. The AFP has been setting up detachments to prepare for Balikatan. Curfews have also been enforced in communities accused of providing refuge to the NPA.

Prior to this, the regime made much ado about the call by the Communist Party chairperson to launch a war of national liberation in case American troops directly attack the revolutionary movement and the people. This was

used by the regime to make renewed threats against the revolutionary forces and all its supporters.

In addition, 40 Aeta families are being evicted from their homes in Sitio Tarukan, Barangay Sta. Juliana, Capas, Tarlac near the Crow Valley Gunnery Range. They are being forced to live in schoolhouses because participants of Balikatan 02-2 supposedly plan to fire live bullets.

Crow Valley is part of the Aeta's ancestral lands. It was seized by the US for use as an extension of the former Clark Air Base in Pampanga. Up to 300 Aeta families currently live and farm in Crow Valley.

## More troops, extension approved for Balikatan 02-1

Macapagal-Arroyo formally approved on April 19 the entry of an additional 340 American troops in Basilan. The entry of 280 US Navy Seabees and 60 Marines had earlier been ordered by US Defense Sec. Donald Rumsfeld. According to Balikatan 02-1 co-director for training Brig. Gen. Emmanuel Teodisio, the American soldiers would assist in setting up infrastructure. This is also in preparation for the long-term basing by American troops in the country.

*"Balikatan" continued on page 8*

## Worsening unemployment

More and more workers are unemployed. Aside from the millions added to the labor force annually who are unable to find work, hundreds of thousands of workers lose their jobs due to company closures consequent to the economic crisis.

In the first quarter of the year, two million were added to the labor force, including this year's 400,000 college graduates. Meanwhile, there are no jobs waiting for them.

Aside from this, the National Statistics Office has reported that 380,000 workers lost their jobs from October 2001 to March 2002. Macapagal-Arroyo's vaunted "emergency employment program" is useless.

Desperate to find work, 2,700 workers leave the country every day to work in other countries. In 2001, up to 866,590 overseas contract workers left the country compared to 841,628 in 2000. Even highly skilled workers and professionals are leaving the country. AB

*"Supreme Court", from page 7*

or any other law, work stoppages or work slowdowns were illegal in essence because they implied that workers worked on their own volition and not according to the hours and direction set by the capitalist. Even as the case

**Most striking violations of workers' rights**  
January-December 2001

	No. of Cases	Victims
Attacks	116	2,417
Coercion	52	2,043
Threats	15	399
Illegal arrest	14	102
Illegal search	3	267
Illegal detention	10	77

Data from the Center for Trade Union and Human Rights (CTUHR)



was being heard, the SMC had gone ahead in dismissing union leaders of Ilaw at Buklod ng mga Manggagawa. Instead of putting a stop to it, the Supreme Court even praised the SMC for its "generous" separation package for dismissed workers. AB

Macapagal-Arroyo had earlier declared her support for a planned extension of Balikatan 02-1. The regime would like to make it appear that the extension is in accordance with the request of Basilan residents for the American troops to finish the infrastructure projects they had begun. Since the beginning, it has been clear that the US had no plans of adhering to the provisions of the Terms of Reference.

### Human rights violations rampant in Basilan

Up to 133 Basilan residents, including five women, have been arrested by the police and military since the campaign against Abu Sayyaf bandits began in July 2001. Many of those arrested remain incarcerated even if they have the right and capability to post bail for the cases filed against them. No trial dates have as yet been scheduled for the detainees.

The Department of Justice issued a memorandum last year allowing warrantless arrests. The memorandum was premised on Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of a state of lawlessness in Basilan.

### Supreme Court rules in favor of Balikatan 02-1

In a move in favor of trampling on Philippine independence, the Supreme Court ruled by a vote of 10-3 that Balikatan 02-1 was "legal and constitutional". Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was not supposedly guilty of abuse of authority. The Supreme Court was also supposedly not in a position to judge whether the training was actually a military operation.

### Moros in Cagayan de Oro take action against Balikatan

More than 200 Moros rallied in Cagayan de Oro City on April 6 to oppose the continued presence of American troops in Basilan and Zamboanga and assail George W. Bush's "war without borders". More than 50 Maranaos from Cagayan de Oro and Marawi City also conducted a forum on March 17.

Prior to this, Out of Minda Now!, a multisectoral coalition against Balikatan 02-1 was established in Cagayan de Oro City on February 23. The coalition includes 104 church people, professionals, students, women, lawyers and representatives of other sectors from Cagayan de Oro and other parts of Misamis Oriental. Youth in Mindanao, an anti-Balikatan youth coalition, was also established.

### Mass actions in US and Canada waged

Hundreds of members of the Filipino Workers' Association (FWA) and other workers and activists in San Francisco, California conducted an anti-imperialist march in Oakland on March 23.

In Vancouver, Canada, more than 100 Filipinos gathered on March 18 to discuss US intervention in the Philippines. It was an extension of the international day of action called on March 17 by Migrante International to end US military presence in the Philippines.



# Plunder by the Marcoses being consigned to oblivion

ALMOST ALL OF THE CASES FILED AGAINST the Marcos family and its cronies have been dismissed. There are fears that they would eventually be able to recover their ill-gotten wealth. This, as a consequence of collusion between the Marcoses and the government, willful negligence and corruption on the part of government and the prosecution and maneuvers by the Marcos camp.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG), which was formed in 1986 to take charge of the recovery of the Marcoses' ill-gotten wealth, is dragging its feet on the matter. Most of the cases filed against Imelda Marcos and her husband's cronies have been dismissed by the Ombudsman.

Due to a supposed lack of evidence that would prove that the wealth had been acquired through criminal means, Zurich district attorney and investigating magistrate Dieter Jann has lifted the embargo on the ill-gotten wealth deposited by three Marcos cronies in Swiss banks. Although the decision to lift the embargo has not been approved by the Swiss Federal Council, which had imposed it on the bank deposits, it has been lifted twice by Jann—on January 6 and March 12. Covered are no less than \$17 million deposited by Marcos' former energy minister Geronimo Velasco, his nephew Alfredo de Borja and his secretary Carmencita Clavecilla. Documentary evidence against Velasco are missing from the PCGG office.

Roundly criticized, the PCGG



Revolutionary movement in Northeastern Luzon

## Hailing its victories

hurriedly filed a petition to restore the embargo on the deposits of the three Marcos cronies.

Up to 92 out of 111 criminal cases filed by the PCGG against Imelda Marcos have been dismissed by the Ombudsman, including those dismissed by Ombudsman Aniano Deserto under the current regime. This is based on a composite listing by the Overall Deputy Ombudsman and the Head Executive Assistant of the Ombudsman.

Lately, Imelda Marcos and three other officials of the defunct Ministry of Human Settlements (MHS) were acquitted by the Sandiganbayan of two cases of graft involving their appropriation of P97.95 million from a P100-million fund intended for the Kilusan Para sa Sariling Sikap. Among those acquitted in the case filed in 1987 were MHS Dep. Minister Jose Conrado Benitez, assistant manager for finance Gilbert Dulay and assistant manager for regional operations Roberto Zagala. The Ombudsman never even objected to the petition for dismissal by the Marcoses supposedly filed due to a lack of evidence to convict the defendants.

Also dismissed was a case in Masbate against the Bakunawa couple, former minions of Imelda, involving a 100-hectare lot given to them by Imelda. The land is being claimed by farmers in the area. AB

The revolutionary movement in Northeastern Luzon posted victories in all arenas the previous year. The Fortunato Camus Command, the regional command for operations, was extremely pleased to announce this on the occasion of the 33<sup>rd</sup> founding anniversary of the New People's Army (NPA).

A new guerrilla front has been established in the region. The mass base grew by tens of thousands while thousands were added to the number of organized masses and mass activists. Like the expansion of the people's army, scores of barrios were also added to the number of villages the NPA operates in, while Party membership in the region enjoyed a 100% increase, mostly in the guerrilla zones.

A significant number among the masses benefited from socio-economic projects launched by the Party and NPA. Because of the strict adherence to the antifeudal line as the key link in all endeavors in the guerrilla zones, antifeudal mass campaigns have been launched, further invigorating the revolutionary mass movement. The revolutionary movement in the region has also been assiduously conducting projects to improve production, provide health care, ensure peace and order and settle contradictions among the people.

The NPA's punishment of former governor and congressman Col. Rodolfo Aguinaldo became the focus of national attention. It was celebrated by the people of Cagayan and Isabela. Aside from this, more than 10 bad elements were also punished by the NPA. All of them were rabid counterrevolutionaries who owed blood debts to the people. The NPA also thwarted a number of military offensives launched by the AFP, turning the tables on it and inflicting casualties on the enemy.

In the ideological arena, the revolutionary movement in all of Northeastern Luzon has been thoroughly struggling against the trend of conservatism. The revolutionary forces in the region have already been able to slowly transcend the problem due to the correctness of the line set by the Party Regional Committee after a summing-up conference in mid-1998.

The gains may be modest compared to the overall development of the revolutionary movement, but they are nonetheless significant to the region. They signify the all-sided advance of revolutionary work in the region and steel the revolutionary forces' determination to advance people's war to a new and higher level.

They serve as an inspiration to advance further in order to fulfill the ardent desire of the revolutionary forces and the people to achieve revolutionary victory. AB



## Company punished, cops ambushed in Agusan del Norte

The NPA burned heavy equipment owned by Concepcion Basic Builders, Inc. (CBBI) in Barangays De Oro and Tagabaca in Butuan City, Agusan del Norte on March 20. It was a punitive measure against the owner who was guilty of offenses against the people and the revolutionary movement. The burned equipment included a payloader and a bulldozer in De Oro and three backhoes, a grader and two rollers in Tagabaca. CBBI is owned by Engr. Arturo Ong-o, a contractor in charge of constructing irrigation canals in Butuan City for the Cotabato-Agusan River Basin Development Project.

According to correspondence reports from Northeast Mindanao, the masses were gladdened by the punitive action against Ong-o due to his forcible excavation of canals without giving due compensation to peasants whose farms were damaged. He has also been forcibly ejecting farmers whose lands are covered by the project. The company was likewise punished for its refusal to abide by the revolutionary movement's policies on taxation. The masses played a big role in providing important information that helped in the successful implementation of the punitive action and the NPA's safe retreat.

The day after the incident, a team from the PNP Regional Mobile Group was sent to pursue the NPA. Three policemen were wounded when the jeep they were riding was ambushed by Red fighters as it traversed the highway along Barangay De Oro. **AB**



## Human rights violations worsening under the Macapagal-Arroyo regime

EVEN AS IT DESPERATELY MALIGNS THE INTEGRITY OF THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT through evil propaganda, the Macapagal-Arroyo regime is unable to cover up its own brutality. Fascism perpetrated by the murderous reactionary army against growing numbers of people in various parts of the country continues to worsen.

Just this month, *Ang Bayan* received reports from Cagayan Valley and Southern Tagalog on abuses, acts of violence and terror by AFP troops.

**KILLINGS OF MORE BAYAN MUNA MEMBERS.** Troops from the 16<sup>th</sup> IB led by a Lieutenant Dimapinto killed Bayan Muna municipal coordinator and barangay councilman Expedito "Ispid" Albarillo, 48 in the morning of April 8. He was killed in Sitio Ibuye, Barangay Calsapa, San Teodoro, Oriental Mindoro. Prior to this, Albarillo had been accused of being a member of the New People's Army.

Albarillo was dragged from his house, shot and his skull bashed in. The soldiers also gouged out one of his eyes. The fascists also killed his wife Manuela Albarillo, 45, a Bayan Muna member and leader of the Samahan ng Kababaihan sa San Teodoro.

In Isabela, Bayan Muna provincial coordinator Warlito Nagasao, 46, was abducted and killed by suspected troops from the 45<sup>th</sup> IB. He had just left his house in Barangay Villa Campo Laud, Echague in the early hours of March 20. He was found dead several hours later in the town of Alfonso Lista, Ifugao. His family learned of his death only on March 26 when his body was brought to them.

**LANDGRABBING AND HARASSMENT OF FARMERS.** In Santiago, Quirino in Isabela, Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco and Benjamin Dy Jr. have been using the 45<sup>th</sup> IB to grab lands from farmers for their cassava-planting project in the region. From January to February, the 45<sup>th</sup> IB and agents from the Military Intelligence Group threatened and terrorized leaders and members of the Santiago Farmers Association and others opposed to the project. In addition, the troops conducted illegal searches of houses in San Juan, Quezon, Isabela and based themselves in houses in Sitio Namnama, Barangay Santos of the same town despite opposition from residents.

**VIOLATIONS OF THE RULES OF WAR AND INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW.** Troops of the 45<sup>th</sup> IB summarily executed on February 12 two captured Red fighters, Frankie "Ka Arnold" Gelacio and Salvador "Ka Marvin" Arbezo. They were part of a five-person NPA team that was encircled that day in Dolores, Quirino, Isabela.

Meanwhile, the bodies of Ka Arnold and Ka Marvin's three comrades who were killed in the fighting were desecrated. The troops sexually molested and robbed Janet "Ka Angel" Taguba. Danilo "Ka Jonard" Galan's shoulder was broken; and Rafael "Ka Mar" de Leon's face was riddled with bullets.

The soldiers also strafed the houses of Dominador Corpuz and Marcelo Villanueva, where the Red fighters rested, thus destroying many household items. **AB**

# Desperate attack by Israel on Palestine

SINCE MARCH 29, ISRAEL HAS BEEN ATTACKING PALESTINE without letup. Using modern tanks, helicopters and other war equipment, more than 10,000 troops from the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) have attacked the Palestinian people who use only simple arms, and occupied practically the entire West Bank of Palestine.

It is the objective of Israel Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government to completely destroy Palestine so that it would be compelled to accept whatever resolution Israel would impose on the existence of a Palestinian state.

Before these attacks, the US supported the Sharon government in its termination of negotiations between Palestine and Israel and its view of militant Palestinians as "terrorists". It covertly supported Israel's "right" to attack Palestine in the name of the "war against terrorism". Nonetheless, after the entire world condemned Israel's attacks, the US was obliged to withdraw from such a position and call on Israel to stop its current attacks on Palestine.

But, according to US President Bush, he "understands" the reason behind Israel's laying siege on Arafat and the "gradualness" of Israel's withdrawal, which is delaying the resumption of negotiations.

In the face of pressure from the US and Israel, Arafat has firmly asserted the immediate withdrawal of Israel from Palestine. According to Arafat, there is need for a third party in any negotiation to resolve the current issues regarding Palestine.

Israel's renewed attacks on Palestine have further underscored the justness of the Palestinian people's struggle, firmed up their unity and strengthened their determination to wage resistance. They have also motivated the Arab countries to heighten their unity against Israel and roused unprecedented international support and sympathy for the Palestinian people's resistance as well as worldwide condemnation of Israel. They have created a major rift within the international coalition that the US has been trying to build for its "anti-terrorist war". AB



## Israel's unbridled terrorism in Palestine

SINCE MARCH 29, ISRAEL HAS BEEN LAUNCHING "Operation Defensive Shield", one of the biggest and most intense attacks on Palestine, to suppress the new *intifada* (armed uprising) being waged by Palestinians against Israeli occupation. The Palestinians launched a new *intifada* after Israeli-Palestinian negotiations collapsed in September 2000. Since then, more than 1,500 Palestinians and 400 Israelis have been killed.

Israel has copied and exploited with utmost ferocity the US' "war against terrorism" in launching the renewed attack on Palestine. The Sharon government of Israel has justified its attacks and rampage in Palestine as a fight against "terrorism".

In reality, it is Israel that has been sowing unbridled terrorism in Palestine. Israeli forces have been perpetrating rampant killings and arrests and imposing hardships and sowing destruction in Palestine.

Following are but a few of the striking cases of violence perpetrated by Israeli soldiers against the Palestinian people:



**ATTACKS ON REFUGEE CAMPS.** Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) attacked, shot at and bombed even refugee camps at the West Bank. In the Nablus and Jenin refugee camps alone, more than 200 Palestinians have been killed, 1,500 wounded and 4,000 arrested and jailed by the Israelis.

**ZONING IN THE WEST BANK AND OTHER PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES.** The IDF strictly controls and obstructs the movements of all Palestinians in the West Bank and other Palestinian territories occupied by Israel. There are rampant cases of civilians being tortured and dragged during search operations in buildings and houses as well as arrests and other acts of violence. Even the wounded and the sick are prevented from going to hospitals; doctors

are barred from going near them. It is only very recently that the Red Cross, Red Crescent and other international humanitarian organizations have been allowed partial access. Reporters are still barred from approaching the ruined refugee camps.

**MASSIVE DESTRUCTION OF FACILITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE AND PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY OF PALESTINE.** Israeli forces have destroyed everything in their path—water supplies, electric plants, communication systems, buildings, houses, hospitals and other infrastructure. As a result, the Palestinian people are now suffering from a lack of basic necessities. Israel has destroyed 75% of Palestine's economic capacity.

**SIEGE ON THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY HEADQUARTERS.** Attacking forces have laid siege to and destroyed the Palestinian government's headquarters in Ramallah, depriving it of essential services. Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestinian Authority, is under siege to cripple his leadership and deprive him of any role in resolving the crisis in Palestine.

**ATTACK ON BETHLEHEM.** The Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, considered by the world's Christians as one of their holiest churches, has also been under siege and is being shot at by the IDF despite the strict prohibition by international rules of war of attacks on places of worship. The Israelis have likewise cornered 200 Palestinian security forces, along with 50 priests, monks and nuns, local officials and civilians. Israel gave the Palestinian fighters the choice of surrender and exile or incarceration and trial in Israel. They have chosen to continue their resistance.

Israel turns a deaf ear to the world's condemnation of its occupation and fascist rule over Palestine. It has pulled back towards the borders of some of the towns it has crushed in the West Bank, but has simultaneously attacked other towns and has launched an offensive against the Gaza Strip, another area of Palestine. AB

## The whole world condemns renewed attacks by Israel on Palestine

THERE HAS BEEN AN OUTPOURING OF SUPPORT FROM various parts of the globe for the struggle of the Palestinians as well as severe condemnation for Israel's attacks and brutality in Palestine.

Large-scale demonstrations and other actions by the people have assailed both Israel and the US. There have been widespread, continuous and massive rallies within and outside Palestine, and even inside Israel. Up to 80,000 launched protest actions in Egypt and more than 100,000 in Rabat, Morocco.

Up to 100,000 rallied on April 21 in Washington DC, USA for the liberation of Palestine. In Europe, more than 18,000 rallied in Paris, aside from thousands of persons who waged a demonstration in various cities in France. Twenty-thousand rallied in Rome, Italy aside from thousands of people who rallied in other countries in the Middle East, Europe and Asia, Australia and Canada.

In Jenin, Ramallah itself and other parts of Palestine, thousands of Palestinians, Israelis and peace advocates from different parts of the globe militantly took a stand to physically block the advance of Israeli tanks and troops. Palestinians have been holding rallies almost daily to assert the removal of aggressor troops from Israel.

Arab nations have now achieved a higher level of unity in support of Palestine and in roundly condemning Israel. They united during the recently held Arab Summit on March 28 that advocated the revival of peace talks between Palestine and Israel, the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and the repatriation of 3.6 million Palestinian refugees scattered in various countries. In this regard, Jordan has taken the lead in sending food, medicine and other support for the Palestinians.

Iraq has allotted a huge amount for financial support for families of Palestinians who died while struggling against Israel or at the hands of the Israelis. Along with this, Iraq has reduced its oil production by 50% and challenged other members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to unite on such a measure to put pressure on the US to move against Israel. The US and other Western countries depend a great deal on oil supplies from the Middle East.

Successive resolutions have been issued by international forums against Israel's attacks. The European Union (EU) has been quick to condemn the Israeli occupation and has threatened to impose an economic embargo on Israel.

Various progressive and democratic forces have filed petitions with the UN and other international organizations to call for the immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from Palestine, the dispatch of an international peace-keeping force and humanitarian and material aid to Palestine and the launching of a fact-finding mission.

By a vote of 20-0 on April 10, the UN Security Council has called for an immediate end to the military operations of Israel in the West Bank and the implementation of previous UN resolutions recognizing the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. AB



## Notorious Isabela mayor punished

A team of Red fighters punished on April 22, Jesus Sebastian Sr., notorious mayor of Jones, Isabela. He was about to enter his office at the Jones municipal hall when he was punished. His police bodyguards were unable to do anything as they were immediately shot at and disarmed by the NPA.

In a statement by Ka Delio Baladon, spokesperson of the NPA Benito Tesorio Front (BTF) in Isabela, Sebastian was meted punishment because of his rabid advocacy of AFP military operations (particularly of the 5<sup>th</sup> ID), violations of human rights, corruption and grabbing of lands from farmers. Among others, he was guilty of grabbing peasants' lands for a coffee plantation of Nestlé, allowing the field testing of Bt corn in Barangay Diarao, Jones, recruiting CAFGU elements and stealing from the government's coffers. He was also the protector of the notorious Liberty Logging Corporation that was meted punishment by the NPA in September 2000 because of its destructive logging operations in Jones.

## 15 killed in Davao and Samar ambushes

Thirteen soldiers and two policemen were killed and four others were wounded in four separate ambuscades launched by the NPA in Davao and Samar.

At least 10 soldiers were killed in an ambush by NPA guerrillas on attacking troops of the 60<sup>th</sup> IB in a forested and mountainous area of Boston, Davao Oriental on April 4.

Two policemen were killed and one more wounded in an ambush by Red fighters in the second week of April in Kiblawan, Davao del Sur.

Meanwhile, in Western Samar, two soldiers were killed and a CAFGU element was wounded after Red fighters ambushed a seven-man team of the 52<sup>nd</sup> IB in Barangay Madalunot, Pinabacdao on April 2.

Prior to this, a soldier was killed and two were wounded when the NPA ambushed a platoon of the 72<sup>nd</sup> IB in Talaingod, Davao del Norte on April 1.

## Punitive actions conducted

Red fighters in Cebu punished the Rough Rider Bus Company on March 31 because of its adamant refusal to pay revolutionary taxes. The punitive action was conducted when the NPA torched two Rough Rider passenger buses in two separate incidents in Sitio Kampatok, Barangay Dalid, Tuburan and Barangay Kinawahan, San Remigio. Rough Rider was also punished for its refusal to assist victims of accidents involving the company.

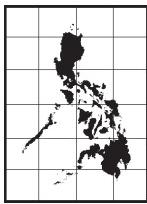
Meanwhile, the NPA continued meting out revolutionary justice on elements with grave crimes against the people and the revolutionary movement.

Punished on April 3 was Majayjay, Laguna deputy police chief SPO4 Brandon Garcia, five days after SPO2 Ernesto Garcia, also a policemen from the same town, was meted punishment. On March 31, PO3 Ernesto Barrete who was detailed at the PNP provincial office, was punished in Compostela Valley. Punished on March 30 in Barangay Trinidad, Guihulngan, Negros Oriental was former CAFGU element Nicodemus Magallano. Prior to this, Emmanuel Quizon, a notorious element of the Civilian Armed Auxiliary Company under the 42<sup>nd</sup> IB was punished on March 29 in Pasacao, Quezon.



# NEWS

Killing of Karapatan official condemned



The Alliance for the Advancement of People's Rights (Karapatan) and Reporters Without Borders, an international organization that advocates press freedom, condemned the killing by 12<sup>th</sup> Special Forces troops of Benjiline Hernandez, 22 and her three companions. Hernandez was the deputy secretary general of Karapatan in Southern Mindanao and a former writer at the Ateneo de Davao University. She and her companions Crisanto Amora, Vivian Andrade and Labaon Sinunday were civilians killed by soldiers in Sitio Bukatol, Barangay Kinalwayan, Arakan, North Cotabato on April 5. They were first captured by the soldiers and later shot at close range.

DHUD opposed by NHA employees

More than 3,000 employees of the National Housing Authority from Metro Manila, Bacolod, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, Baguio, Davao and Tacloban protested on March 21 against the formation of the Department of



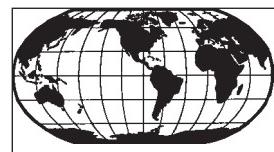
Housing and Urban Development "super-agency". The workers said that this would not solve the problems of 25.2 million Filipinos who do not have houses. Instead, the new office would merely serve as a milking cow of corrupt government officials.

Closure of Bombo Radyo in Isabela condemned

Progressive forces, church people and other sectors condemned the forcible closure of Bombo Radyo-Cauayan by Cauayan, Isabela mayor Ceasar Dy. Bombo Radyo has been known for its exposés of anomalies and acts of violence involving the Dy family. Dy used armed men to enter Bombo Radyo-Cauayan's premises on February 12 and cut off its connection. Dy accused Bombo Radyo of operating without a license despite the fact that the station has been broadcasting for 33 years.

Coup in Venezuela fails

The coup d'état in Venezuela that temporarily ousted president Hugo Chavez on April 12 has failed. The coup was launched after a three-day strike supported by big business that culminated in bloody rioting. The putschists had set up a civilian-military junta that served as an interim government. Chavez was able to return to power after anti-coup demonstrations



broke out on April 13.

The failed coup was instigated by the US to oust Chavez after he refused to sell PDVSA to US company giant Chevron. PDVSA is the biggest oil company in Venezuela owned by the government. Contrary to the US' wishes, Chavez also continues to maintain relations with Fidel Castro and supplies cheap oil to Cuba. Chavez also maintains relations with Moammar Qaddafi of Libya, Saddam Hussein of Iraq and FARC, the revolutionary group in Colombia. Venezuela is the third biggest supplier of oil to the US.

Massive strike launched in Italy

Up to 13 million workers or more than half of Italy's labor force, launched a massive strike on April 16. The workers assailed plans by the Berlusconi government to change labor laws to make it easier to fire workers.

The eight-hour strike organized by the three biggest unions in Italy covered 75-90% of factories and most stores, airports, transportation, schools, the media and others. Two million people likewise launched a march-rally in various parts of Italy. Prior to this, two million workers had rallied in Rome on March 23.